

Bath Employees Use Their Creativity

On a cold February day, the Bath VA activated its Emergency Operations Plan due to a loss of heat in the domiciliary. As plans were underway to evacuate approximately 90 patients, the Engineering staff concentrated on the utility failure.

Due to a burned out bearing, an air handler had failed. Immediate action was taken, however, parts could not be delivered for 24 hours. Engineering brainstormed ideas to temporarily provide heat. A similar part of different size was located. Engineering fabricated shims to make the part work and it was installed. After several attempts, the machine was operating. But, could it be depended on to provide reliable heat for the building until a new bearing arrived? After further discussion, Engineering determined that the bearing might be identical to one used for potato harvesters manufactured in surrounding towns. Inquiries were made to local manufacturers and a part was found. By 3:30 p.m. the heat was back in service - alleviating the need for patient evacuation. The innovative thinking and teamwork exhibited by engineering staff saved the patients and staff from many hours of hardship and difficulty.

While repairs were being made, domiciliary staff

were busy preparing for a potential move. Environmental management, painters, grounds crew, and firefighters began prep work for relocating patients to other buildings. Due to the diligence and teamwork of all involved, an action plan to safely accommodate the patients in other areas was devised and implemented within 30 minutes.



William Feeley, Network Director and **David Wood**, Medical Center Director present awards to the employees involved in making this potential emergency just another routine day at the Bath VA.

Awards and Recognition

- **Kevin Campbell**, Computer Specialist, Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic arranged for the donation of ten computers to the Ontario County ARC. The organization appreciated the generosity of Kevin on behalf of the VA. Individuals with developmental disabilities will use the computers.

- Chaplain **Robert F. Searle**, Protestant Staff Chaplain at the Canandaigua and Syracuse VA Medical Centers is now a Board Certified Chaplain through the National Association of VA Chaplains. It is the highest level of certification a professional chaplain can receive.

- The Grand United Order of Oddfellows honored **Sam Feaster**, Patient Services Assistant at the VA Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo for his outstanding service in providing informational programs to the Western New York veteran community.



In the News

✓ The Stratton VA Medical Center opened a new Comprehensive Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders on Friday, April 23. The Center provides state-of-the-art care, diagnostic treatment, consultative services and much more.

✓ The Canandaigua Domiciliary and Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation units were moved to their newly renovated space.

✓ **John William Scott**, RN and **Ramona Sowers** received full scholarships to attend the VA 2004 Advanced Liver Disease Training Program.

Bath's Wall of Honor

The Bath Veterans Employee Advisory Board established a "Wall of Honor" to recognize the relatives of Bath VA employees serving on active duty in the military. **Vicki Smith**, Employee Health Assistant is responsible for taking care of the board. All employees were encouraged to furnish her with a photo of their relative and a short biography. The wall is located just inside the entrance door of the lobby. Response has been positive from employees and veterans alike.



N2N

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Syracuse VA Renews Outpatient Contracts

In March, the Syracuse VA Medical Center and the Oswego Hospital announced they would continue to provide outpatient primary care and behavioral health services at its current location at the Oswego Outpatient Clinic. This renews their partnership for an additional three years.

The Cortland Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) has been awarded an additional three-year contract through the Cayuga Medical Center to provide primary care and behavioral health services to veterans in Cortland and Tompkins County. The Cortland CBOC will move across the street to provide more space for the outpatient clinic.

Presentations

✍ There will be a Women's Health Symposium - *Heroism Knows No Gender, Saluting Military Women* on May 12 from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Center for Tomorrow on the University of Buffalo North Campus. For more information contact **Cheryl Knowles** at (607) 664-4892.

✍ **John Sanderson, M.D.** and **Mary Schohn, Ph.D.**, discussed integrated primary care at the ACA Eastern Regional Conference. Many Network 2 staff were in attendance. Network Director, **William F. Feeley** provided the closing keynote address for the conference.

✍ **Ann Rapacki**, Computer Specialist, Bath VA Medical Center (VAMC) and **Julie Dugo**, RN, Bath VAMC displayed an abstract at VEHU 2004 (formally Camp CPRS). The topic, "One Inpatient Clinical Reminder Fits All" shows the reminder dialog note being used on the inpatient units to meet inpatient performance measures.

Degrees

• **Bonnie White**, Canandaigua VA Medical Center, Psychology Technician received her Master's Degree in Psychology in January. She was also Board Certified by The American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress in November.

• **Carol Schultz**, Addiction Therapist VA Western New York Healthcare System in Buffalo completed her Masters Degree in Business Administration.